

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04

PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 FEAE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /076 W
----- 122345

R 041017Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0962

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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KUWAIT POUCH BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, ECIN

SUBJ: MEETING TO ESTABLISH UNITED ARAB SHIPPING COMPANY

REF: A) KUWAIT 4348; B) DOHA 0614; C) DOHA 0451

1. WE CONTACTED GOQ OFFICIAL WHO ATTENDED APRIL 1975 MEETING
IN RIYADH ON ESTABLISHMENT OF GULF STATES SHIPPING COMPANY
(REF B) CONCERNING GULF FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING SCHEDULED
FOR NOV 13 (REF A). OFFICIAL SAID HE AWARE OF MEETING AND EXPECTED
TO ATTEND BUT ADDED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER QATARI FOREIGN
MINISTER SHAYKH SUHAYM BIN HAMAD AL THANI WOULD BE PRESENT.
(IT IS UNLIKELY THAT SUHAYM WILL ATTEND SINCE HE IS ACTING
RULER IN ABSENCE OF AMIR WHO IS ABROAD AND NOT SCHEDULED TO
RETURN UNTIL NOV 16.)

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2. AS REPORTED REF B, WE WERE TOLD BY OFFICIAL IN MAY THAT MINISTERS OF SIX GULF STATES (QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, OMAN, BAHRAIN AND UAE) WERE EXPECTED TO MEET FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION BY DELEGATES TO APRIL MEETING THAT REGIONAL SHIPPING COMPANY BE FORMED. IN RECENT CONVERSATION, OFFICIAL NOTED AGAIN THAT THERE ARE LIKELY TO BE DISAGREEMENTS OVER AMOUNT OF CAPITALIZATION OF REGIONAL VENTURE AND DISTRIBUTION OF SHARES IN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING. HE ALSO SAID ONE OF KEY ELEMENTS IN DECISION ON JOINT SHIPPING COMPANY WILL BE COMMITMENT ON PART OF MEMBER STATES NOT TO FORM SEPARATE NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES IN FUTURE. OFFICIAL NOTED THAT SAUDIS HAVE BALKED AT THIS, MAINTAINING THAT SAUDI ARABIA'S SHIPPING NEEDS MAY REQUIRE MORE SERVICES THAN REGIONAL COMPANY COULD SUPPLY. OFFICIAL VENTURED OPINION THAT UNLESS SAUDIS BACK DOWN ON THIS POINT, PROGRESS OF REGIONAL VENTURE COULD BE STALLED.

3. ON SUBJECT OF VESSELS, OFFICIAL AGAIN EXPRESSED OPINION THAT GIVEN EXTREME CONGESTION PROBLEMS, GULF STATES WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO CONSIDER NEW TECHNOLOGY SHIPS SUCH AS LASH OR SEA-BEE. HE STATED SIMPLIFIED LOADING/OFF-LOADING PROCEDURES WOULD CONSIDERABLY REDUCE STRAIN ON PORT FACILITIES, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HIS WAS MINORITY VIEWPOINT IN AREA.
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